



PRIZE WINNING
NEWSPAPER
2005
Nebraska Press Association



Les Sigman (top) takes the upperhand over Augustana's Cris Bietz during the Heavyweight Championship match at the NCAA II North Regional Sunday at the Sapp Fieldhouse. With the win, Sigman claimed his 69th straight victory.

photo by Michelle Bishop

University of Iowa has outbreak of mumps

SCOTT STEWART

SENIOR STAFF WRITER / SYSTEMS MANAGER

The University of Iowa is experiencing an outbreak of mumps, a vaccine-preventable disease characterized by the swelling of the parotid gland, one of the salivary glands.

"We just had our sixth confirmed case since mid-December," said Nurse Manager Lisa James of the University of Iowa. "We did have one person hospitalized."

The University of Iowa, just like UNO, requires all incoming students to obtain two doses of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccination, with a few exceptions made for medical and religious reasons.

All six of the students who have gotten ill have had the MMR vaccination, according to James.

"My guess is that they were exposed to it by non-immunized students," said Marcia Adler, coordinator of UNO Student Health Services. "I wonder if this is a different strain."

Adler went on to explain that in some cases, vaccinations do not always prevent illness, but often reduce symptoms. Viruses have also been known to mutate or come in strains different from those included in the vaccine, and some batches of vaccine can be spoiled.

"We know that about 40 percent

See **MUMP OUTBREAK**: Page 3

Mavs dominate Regional tournament

JASON GLENN
STAFF WRITER

The UNO wrestling team won five out of the 10 weight classes at the NCAA II North Regional Wrestling Tournament Sunday at the Sapp Fieldhouse.

Cody Garcia, Mitch Waite, Patrick Allibone, J.D. Naig and Les Sigman all won their championship

matches, leading the No. 1 ranked Mavericks to the overall team title. Every Maverick wrestler placed high enough to advance to the National Tournament March 10 in Findlay, Ohio.

All 10 Mavs won their first-round matches, with Garcia, Dan Hilario and Ross Taplin each recording pins. Waite had a technical fall over Northern

State's Mark Burkart, running up 16 points in three minutes 22 seconds, and Shane Unger and Allibone each had major decisions over their opponents.

Nick Edmonds got the partisan crowd going with a 5-4 upset of Mankato State's Ben Janike, the deciding point coming on an escape just as time was running out.

In the semifinal round, Unger provided the fireworks, scoring a takedown in the last ten seconds of regulation to tie the score and send his match with Brandon Girtz into overtime. Unger's escape in the last period of overtime gave him the win 5-4. At 197 pounds, Edmonds played the giant-killer again, knocking off No. 2 seed Joel Wipperfurth 7-4.

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Habitat for Humanity event raises donations, recruits volunteers

SCOTT STEWART

SENIOR STAFF WRITER / SYSTEMS MANAGER

Habitat for Humanity has teamed up with UNO public relations students to increase public awareness of the need for continued community support for Habitat at the local level, especially following the effects of Hurricane Katrina, according to a news release.

Student organizations from Greek societies to sports teams and even Student Government participated in the Public Relations Student Society of America's "Raise the Roof" roof-

decorating contest and forum last Wednesday, Feb. 23.

"I wanted to try to make a good project for my chapter and have some fun," said Pi Kappa Alpha representative Alex Skillman.

A refugee from war-torn southern Sudan spoke at the event.

"Habitat is the best thing that has ever happened to me," said Habitat homeowner Doyiech Boyth.

"Not many people know how amazing [Habitat] is," Boyth said.

Attendees participated in

a craft competition where they were asked to put decorations on a wood roof. Students from the Chi Omega sorority won the contest, judged by a panel of local celebrities such as television sports personality Dave Webber.

"Congratulations to all of you for your efforts," Webber told attendees.

According to event organizers, around 300 people attended at least part of the event.

"That's absolutely more than we expected," said project leader Jennifer Caveye. "It definitely exceeded our expectations."

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photo by Danelle Peterson

Bret Norton (left) and Emilee Harvey (right) build a roof for Habitat for Humanity to raise awareness and recruit new volunteers Monday.

Omaha Weather



Today

Mostly Sunny
H: 64 L: 42

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

News you can use

COMPILED BY KIMBERLY BRYANT
LINE COPY EDITOR

Henry Doorly Zoo membership drive under way

The annual Henry Doorly Zoo membership drive is under way at UNO. The zoo is offering memberships to university employees and students at the annual rate of \$65 per household. This includes unlimited admission for two adults and dependent children or grandchildren under age 21, discounted admission to the Wildlife Safari and Lozier IMAX Theater, discounts on children's classes and more.

Memberships are \$65 until April 2

and \$73 after that date. To access an order form, visit unomaha.edu/enotes/2006/img/zoo06.pdf.

For membership inquiries, contact John Christensen or Kris Bell at 554-2262.

GLBTQ dialogue Feb. 28

Students, faculty and staff interested in making UNO a safe environment for members of the GLBTQ community are invited to participate in a campus dialogue Tuesday, Feb. 28. The event will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Council Room.

All those interested in attending are invited to bring their lunch. For more

information, contact Sharon Ulmar at 554-2872.

Registration begins for IS&T summer technology workshops

Registration for the 2006 summer technology programs in the UNO College of Information Science & Technology is officially under way. The computer technology workshops are designed for students age 11 to 17.

Early entry C++ and Web development courses are also available for those high school students who want a challenge this summer and are ready for a college credit course. Space is limited.

For more information or to register

online, visit jst.unomaha.edu.

UNO Library Friends Book Club to meet March 1

The UNO Library Friends Book Club will host a discussion of Ted C. Fishman's CHINA, Inc., Wednesday, March 1. The event will be held in the MBSC Gallery Room at noon.

Catherine Co and Lin Shuanglin, UNO professors of economics, will lead the discussion. All members of the community are welcome to attend this and all University Library Friends presentations.

For more information, contact Diane Rockhold at 554-3205.

Finalists for the Dean of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media

Dr. Gail Baker

Hometown: Unavailable
Currently: On research leave from the University of Florida



Baker was educated in journalism at Northwestern University, receiving her bachelor of science in 1976. She went on to receive her master of science in marketing from Roosevelt University in 1980 and her doctorate in journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1991, where she also held academic positions until 1994.

She was a reporter and managing editor for the Chicago Daily Defender. In the early 1980s Baker worked for IBM.

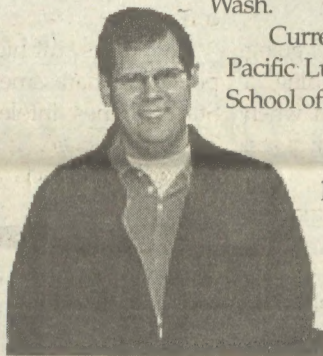
Baker has held several positions at Florida since her arrival in 1995. She has served as an instructor in journalism and communications and as the chair of the department, as well.

Baker was unavailable for comment.

Dr. Edward Inch

Hometown: Bainbridge Island, Wash.

Currently: Acting Dean of Pacific Lutheran University's School of the Arts



Inch received his bachelor of arts in speech communication from Washington University-Bellingham in 1982. Moving

immediately to the University of Oregon to receive his master of science in rhetoric. Inch earned his doctorate of speech communication in 1992 from the University of Washington-Seattle.

In 1986, Inch joined the faculty at PLU in the Department of Communication and theatre. Since then, Inch has taught within the department, eventually serving as the chair of the department.

Inch enjoys restoring classic British cars, most recently completing work on a Triumph TR7 and a Jaguar XJ6. He is currently working on restoring a Triumph TR4A.

Inch on his recent trip to Omaha: "People had told me how genuinely welcoming Omaha is, and I had a wonderful experience that did not disappoint."

Comments?
Concerns?
Complaints?

Write the Editor at
editor@gateway.unomaha.edu

From *HABITAT*: Page 1

The event attracted volunteers and much-needed dollars.

"We made around \$400 in donations, and we had 60 people sign up to volunteer," said Alex May, media relations director. "The student organizations were so enthusiastic and excited and creative. It was a great cause."

PRSSA students organized the activity as the campaign's main event for Habitat for Humanity. The campaign is being implemented for the Bateman Case Study Competition, a national public relations competition conducted by the organization.



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Students not concerned about Bird Flu

CHRIS LARSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Although area experts are preparing themselves for potential Avian Flu outbreaks, many UNO students remain complacent and unconcerned about the deadly disease.

As of Feb. 20, there were 92 deaths and 170 reported cases of the Avian Flu in Asia and the Middle East. This came out to be approximately 54 percent of people dying from the flu, making it a deadly disease, according to the World Health Organization Web site.

None of the documented cases were from human-to-human transfer.

"It is being looked at," said Marcia Adler, registered nurse and coordinator of Student Health Services. "A lot is going on behind the scenes."

Adler attended meetings of the Omaha Metro Medical Response System, which brings together representatives from hospitals, public health officials and other specialists in specified areas. Many UNO security officers have also attended, hoping to learn what to do in the event that the campus would have to be quarantined, Adler said.

"They saw a lack of planning in other major events recently in the U.S., so they wanted to get a step ahead of the game," Adler said.

Dr. Joann Schaefer, chief medical officer of the Nebraska Health and Human Services System, said there's definitely something to worry about.

"Viruses change, mutate and adapt to their surroundings to survive," Schaefer said. "Mother Nature is throwing us all these signs that are very consistent with other pandemic flues."

Pandemic flu is a worldwide outbreak of a new strain of flu, which very few people will be immune to, according to the Nebraska Health and Human Services System Web site.

"It may not happen, but if it does it could be devastating," Schaefer said.

Despite the warnings from experts, UNO students are still not concerned about the Avian Flu.

"I understand that it is a very big issue, but as an individual, what can I do about it?" said Rose Morgan, a sophomore music education major.

Even students traveling to Europe in the spring with the UNO wind ensemble are not worried.

"I'm not that worried about it because there are not a lot of cases," said Jeff Smolinski, a freshman Pre-nursing major. "They will probably find a way to combat it."

Adler said there are precautions that should be taken before you travel abroad.

"If you are going to be traveling, make sure all your immunizations are current, drink only bottled water and I wouldn't eat poultry in Asia," Adler said.

UNO Student Health Services also offers Medical Evacuation Health Insurance for \$50. This is an add-on to student's current insurance and would allow students to be returned home if they were to get very sick while traveling abroad.

"I would not travel to the Middle East or Asia without first having full knowledge of the means to do what is needed in order to prevent myself from contracting [the Avian Flu]," said Joe Harris, a junior education major. "But I don't worry too much about the bird flu in general; I don't feel threatened by it, because I don't think it is going to get to where we are."

The Avian Flu has also not stopped UNO students from eating poultry.

"I'm not worried about it, I'm still going to eat chicken," said Brittany Spaulding, a sophomore social work major. "Even when there was the mad cow disease scare, I was still like 'give me a steak'."

Two students sue Pennsylvania universities on 'speech codes'

BY PATRICK KERKSTRA
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS
(KRT)

Two Pennsylvania college students filed federal civil rights lawsuits last week against Pennsylvania State and Temple Universities, alleging that "speech codes" at the schools violate their First Amendment rights.

Both plaintiffs are represented by the Alliance Defense Fund, a conservative Christian legal advocacy group known for its support of religious expression and its opposition to abortion and gay marriage.

Wednesday's filings in U.S. District Court signaled the organization's new intention to litigate against colleges and universities nationwide that have "incorporated ideology into their bureaucracy," said David French, an attorney for the Arizona-based group. "This is the first salvo."

The first shot was fired against two Pennsylvania schools partly for publicity's sake, French said. In the last six months, the state has attracted national media attention with its controversial legislative hearings into academic freedom on public campuses.

Given Penn State's size and prominence, the university's "Orwellian speech code" made for a particularly inviting target, French said.

Filed on behalf of sophomore Alfred Joseph Fluehr, the suit says that Penn State's policies regarding conduct are "vague, overbroad," and suppress "the discussion of controversial viewpoints."

Fluehr's suit highlights the university's policies on harassment and intolerance. Penn State defines intolerance as an "attitude, feeling or belief in furtherance of which an individual acts to intimidate, threaten

or show contempt for other individuals or groups based on characteristics such as age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, political belief, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status."

In an e-mail response to *The Inquirer*, Penn State spokesman Tysen Kendig said the university has no speech code and that it "recognizes and protects the free speech rights of all members of the University community."

"Our policies do not abridge the right of free speech in any manner," he said.

The lawsuit against Temple makes similar speech-code allegations. It focuses on the grievances of Christian DeJohn, a history graduate student and a veteran, whose suit contends that two Temple professors with an alleged antimilitary bias engaged in "a campaign of retribution and retaliation that would actively thwart his ability to complete his graduate degree."

DeJohn's suit alleges that his relationship with Temple professors Richard Immerman and Gregory Urwin soured after he raised objections to "antiwar e-mails" circulated in the department and to Urwin's in-class "diatribes against the United States military in Iraq and the alleged failures of President Bush."

The suit asserts that the professors prevented DeJohn from graduating by inappropriately refusing to approve his master's thesis.

Urwin could not be reached for comment, and Immerman directed questions to Temple's press office. Temple spokesman Raymond Betzner said he could not comment on ongoing litigation.

From **MUMP OUTBREAK:** Page 1

of [vaccinated] people with chicken pox have lesser symptoms," Adler said.

Both Adler and James encourage any student displaying symptoms of mumps to visit Student Health Services. According to the Centers for Disease Control, common symptoms include "fever, headache, muscle ache and swelling of the glands close to the jaw."

"They should isolate themselves for five days from the first onset of the symptoms," James said. "Some of them have had their parents come get them."

Adler also reminds students who use outside doctors to report a mumps diagnosis to Student Health Services immediately, because it is a public health concern. Mumps is most communicable a couple of days prior to symptoms developing.

Mumps is transmitted by droplet, through coughing and sneezing. Common preventative techniques such as covering your mouth when coughing and "immaculate hand washing" can help retard the spread of many illnesses including mumps, according to Adler.

"So far this year, we have had only one reported case in Nebraska," said Marla Augustine, public information officer for the Nebraska Health and Human Services system. "We do not consider it a concern at this time."

Adler said the case reported was not at UNO.

The state of Iowa normally sees around seven cases per year, according to James.

"It is a little bit of a spike from what we normally have," James said. "We have a lot of students with the same symptoms that have come back negative on the antibodies."

But, James added, there is no need for alarm.

Older and non-traditional students are at even greater risk if they contract mumps.

"Mumps will be a bad outcome for the older students," Adler said. "Any childhood disease that occurs in adulthood is much more dangerous."

Student Health Services can be reached in person on the first floor of the Milo Bail Student Center or by telephone at 554-2374.



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photo by Michelle Bishop

More than 525 new hats were raised for the "Caps for Cancer" campaign during the Maverick hockey game on Feb. 15.

Caps for Cancer success

JOHN THOMAS
STAFF WRITER

What started as an idea for a senior independent study has turned into a successful public relations promotion for UNO athletics and the Eppley Cancer Institute.

Mike Lefley, captain on the UNO hockey team, is currently finishing up his last semester of classes and will graduate with a bachelor's degree in communications. A requirement of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media is to complete an independent study.

"I wanted to come up with an idea that would provide me with some hands-

on experience and at the same time give something back to the community," Lefley said. "My professor and I came up with the idea of a Caps for Cancer toss, where hockey fans could throw new hats on the ice in-between periods, and then the caps would be donated to Eppley Cancer Institute."

Lefley decided the toss would take place during the Maverick's last regular season home game, when there would be the most fans.

The four weeks leading up to the home series against the University of Michigan would be filled with a number of public relations tasks for Lefley. He wrote press releases, recorded radio spots, printed and passed out more than 1,000 fliers, called

See CAPS: Page 5

Music piracy lawsuits shaping new trends in downloading habits

COMMENTARY BY SANEL SELIMOVIC
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the past few years, the Recording Industry Association of America has become increasingly abusive with consumers.

In its battle against piracy, the RIAA's tactics are like using a sledgehammer to kill a flea. The RIAA blanketed Internet service providers with requests for names of all file sharers and issued non-discriminate lawsuits against everyone involved.

Marie Lindor of Brooklyn was recently sued by the RIAA for illegal file trading despite the fact that she has never owned a computer in her life.

Because college students are most strapped for cash and many may have some file-sharing habits, they are the demographic most likely to be slammed with a subpoena. Many are aware of this, but continue to download music, thinking they probably will not be caught.

In reality, the odds of an individual person being caught are quite low. The RIAA has sued only 20,000 users worldwide last year, out of estimated millions worldwide.

But the process of identifying a person for a lawsuit is surprisingly simple. Each computer using Bit Torrent or any peer-to-peer file-sharing program is identified on the Internet by an IP address. These are provided by your ISP and are unique to each computer, sort of like an ID number for your computer.

Because they are clearly visible to everyone, the RIAA simply scans the network and gathers a number of addresses. It then files a John Doe lawsuit to an ISP such as Cox or Qwest. Often the Internet provider, under a fear of lawsuit, quickly provides them with the name associated with that particular account. At this point, the RIAA issues a lawsuit against the user and court battles ensue.

UNO students were less candid about their file sharing, but did refuse to be personally identified. Students who did engage in illegal file sharing felt they would not be caught by the RIAA.

"I think [you'll get caught] if you

download a lot of stuff," said one of the respondents. She also thinks the danger is greater for those who download software off the Internet.

Other students also think that because they "don't download large quantities of music," they will not likely get caught. When asked whether they will continue to download music, most said they would.

The reason for many was that they don't want to pay "an inflated price like \$17 to \$20 for a CD that has one good song on it," as one student put it.

Student consensus was that as long as there is free music to download, and as long as record companies publish CDs that contain very few songs they want, they would be likely to continue downloading.

The RIAA tactics go beyond file sharing. Recently it began using personal attacks on a New York mother, Patti Santangelo, who is the only person so far to countersuit the recording industry. Her lawyer, Jordan Glass, says that now they are going after her children and using information that is not supposed to be public in order to discredit her.

In addition, the recording industry has decided that it is illegal to sell an iPod with loaded music on eBay. In turn, they are monitoring users on this and other sites for possible infringement.

For students worried about their privacy when downloading, there are several services that may offer a solution.

Many companies offer Internet "anonymizers" at a premium price, but those can often be a hit or miss - especially since the user will not know whether the service does what it promises until the lawsuit.

The safest alternative is to either buy the CD or pay for a track online.

Sites such as AllOfMP3.com offer an outstanding service. The site provides access to most new albums and it is fast growing with other artists. And because it is based in Russia, where copyright laws are somewhat unestablished, it is considered legal. A single song off this site can cost an average of 12 cents, and a 12-track album is only \$1.53.

While using a Russian music site may make some feel uncomfortable, it can be absolutely safe to use. For those uncomfortable giving out their credit card number online, the site accepts Visa gift cards.

By purchasing a \$10 Visa gift card at your bank, you may use it to buy six full albums. When the money is gone, the card expires and you are not tied to the card in any way. This way, any potential lawsuits from the RIAA are avoided, and high-quality music is available instantly.

It would be prudent of UNO students to close down their file sharing applications or risk a lawsuit. Services such as iTunes.com carry no risk and AllOfMP3.com offers an outstanding value for the money.

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Making a difference: Frank Hartranft

SANEL SELIMOVIC
STAFF WRITER

Frank Hartranft is a UNO physics professor who teaches a class called the Physics of Life. To the fortunate few take this class, it will become one of the fondest classes in college memory.

Hartranft makes physics fun and interesting to learn, partly by sharing quirky anecdotes, like the time when one of his good friends almost died because he decided it would be creepy to lock himself up in a coffin with dry ice for Halloween and scare little children. It spoke loudly about the dangers of carbon dioxide poisoning.

Most interestingly, Hartranft was around when e-mail first came to UNO, and he played an instrumental role in bringing it to campus in 1986. Back then, he still worked in the computing department, developing e-mail only for on-campus purposes because there was no connection to other universities. Once technology became advanced, the Internet was introduced on campus, allowing UNO to connect with UNMC and UNL.

"I was the 'UNOmaha' inventor, because we wanted to use UNO [as a domain]," Hartranft says, but "the University of New Orleans got there two weeks before we did."

How long have you been with UNO? "Twenty-two years."

Why did you choose to become a professor?

"Because I like the interaction with the students."

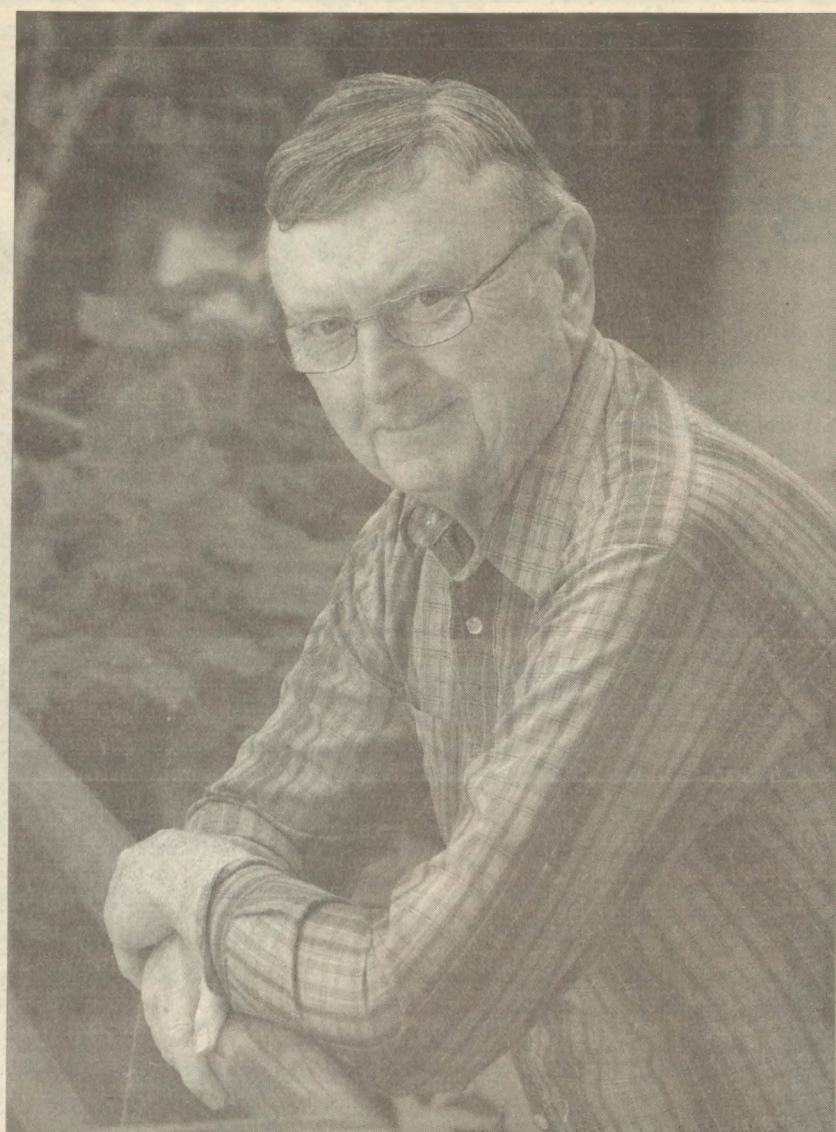


photo by Lucas Munderloh

What are some of the things you have seen changing in students over the years?

Hartranft says that students have a far more advanced technical knowledge, but that reading has gotten dull as far as physics books go. However, Web sites have become more interesting and interactive, which allows students to maintain interactivity.

Has anything stayed consistent over the years?

"I think [students'] attitudes

toward education has not changed much. They are still ambitious and anxious to get out."

Why do so many students seem to disappear as the semester progresses?

Hartranft believes that when students find out that the test is open book, they feel they can do well by showing up occasionally for a review.

Generally, these students do not fare well. Although the tests are open book, it is difficult to do well in this course if students are prone to missing classes.

Physics is very dense, how do you give it a broad appeal?

"I try to find the lowest common denominator of student in the classroom, and because I teach a more advanced class in the summer that involves math, I scale it down to what I think students can understand. I hit the concepts very hard and [apply them] to their current lifestyle."

What is one experiment that students simply love seeing? "I think the one I introduced when I shoot a ping pong ball. That's very impressive because it uses nothing but air pressure."

Have you ever felt your teaching was limited by things out of your control, such as UNO science resources?

"New technology is always coming in, and you can find lots of new equipment. I think the physics department is doing its best with limited resources too, to provide what's needed in order to get the ideas across to students."

What do you feel students get out of your class? "I hope they get a better understanding of what goes on in the world that they live in, as far as physical reactions to certain stimuli."

Last word of advice for UNO students? "Go to class! Any class you go to, the faculty is there for the students, not just to listen to themselves talk. [They] to try to get the ideas across to the students. Sometimes you can't get those ideas across in a textbook."

From **CAPS**: Page 4

television stations, posted bulletins on message boards and faxed every media-related number he could get his hands on.

He was also able to encourage Lawlor's Custom Sportswear to join in on the campaign. Lawlor's agreed to discount their hats during the Maverick's home games, and donate a dollar from every hat sale to the institute.

"We sell roughly 36 hats during a two-game home series. In the four home games we participated in the Caps for Cancer, toss we saw a huge increase in sales. We sold about 115 extra hats," said Pat Lawlor, owner of Lawlor's Sportswear.

The event took place Feb. 15 in front of the Maverick's largest crowd of the season- 8,152. During the second intermission, the announcer counted down from three, and then the ice was littered with new hats. When it was all said and done, more than 525 hats filled a ten foot area just inside the boards of the rink.

Bob Flannery, the UNO assistant athletic director for marketing, said he couldn't be more pleased with the outcome.

"Mike did such an amazing job with this thing," he said. "He created it from scratch, promoted it, pushed it along and executed it. He literally did all the work."

Flannery thinks the Caps for Cancer campaign will turn into a Maverick hockey tradition.

"I see this as something we can and should do annually," he said. "It's a great event and a great cause. I think we can really build on what Mike started."

Lefley's goal from the very beginning was to collect 250 hats and raise \$100.

"I wanted to set a goal that was reasonable but at the same time could really make a difference," he said.

The final results: More than 525 brand new hats, \$189 and recognition for the Eppley Cancer Institute.

"I really hope the toss becomes an annual event," Lefley says. "I'm proud of the way everything turned out, and thankful to all of the people who helped me along the way. I'm most thankful to all the fans who bought hats and tossed them out."

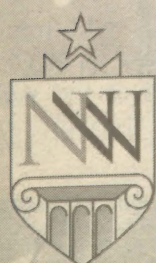
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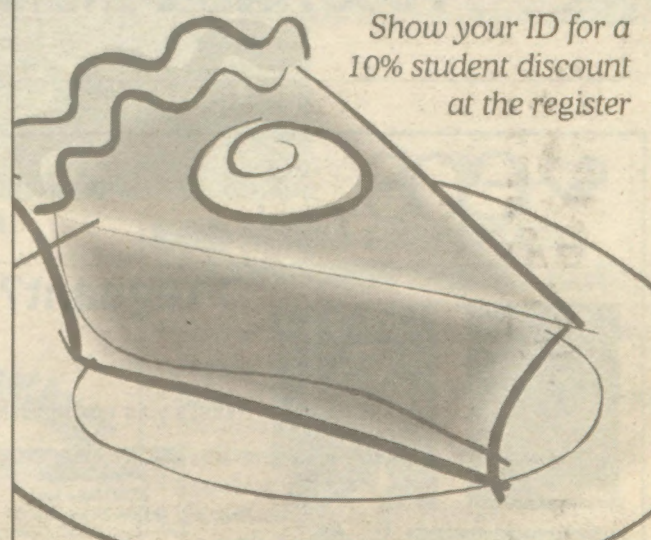
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First round bye slides out of hockey's grasp

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

A first round Central Collegiate Hockey Association bye and second round home ice slipped out of the UNO hockey team's gloves when Western Michigan allowed the Mavericks only one conference point with a tie on Friday night.

The Broncos then ended UNO's unbeaten streak at 10 games Saturday night with a 6-3 win. It was UNO's first loss since Jan. 20.

The Broncos struck the first blow in Friday night's game when Paul Szczechura scored just 58 seconds into the contest. Bill Thomas put the Mavericks on the board with his 25th goal of the season 12 minutes and 44 seconds into the first period. The goal broke UNO's school record for most goals in a season, formerly held by Jeff Hoggan.

Kaleb Betts' unassisted goal 2:40 into the second gave UNO the lead, then Brandon Scero picked up his ninth goal of the year at the 5:43 mark to give the Mavs a 3-1 edge.

See **HOCKEY**: Page 11



photo by Michelle Bishop
Minnesota-Duluth's Bryan Foss collides with Ryan Curtis during Thursday's game.

Men's basketball finishes regular season by ending losing streak

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The slide is over. UNO ended its six-game downward spiral Thursday night with a 66-58 North Central Conference win over Minnesota-Duluth at the Sapp Fieldhouse. The Mavericks followed up by knocking off the NCC's regular season champions, Minnesota State-Mankato, Saturday night in the final game of the regular season.

Thursday night, Zac Robinson's 16 points and Denny Johnston's 12 rebounds helped the Mavericks make a comeback in the second half to down UMD 66-58.

The Mavericks took an early 11-4 lead, but then let the Bulldogs score 10 straight points. UMD took a 31-27 lead into the half and held the Mavs scoreless for the first two minutes and 30 seconds of the second half.

UNO whittled away at the 34-27 lead until Grant Nieland hit a three-pointer to give the Mavericks a 43-42 lead with 11:11 left to play.

Ryan Curtis gave UNO a 58-48 lead on a layup with 3:33 left and the Bulldogs never got closer than five for the rest of the game.

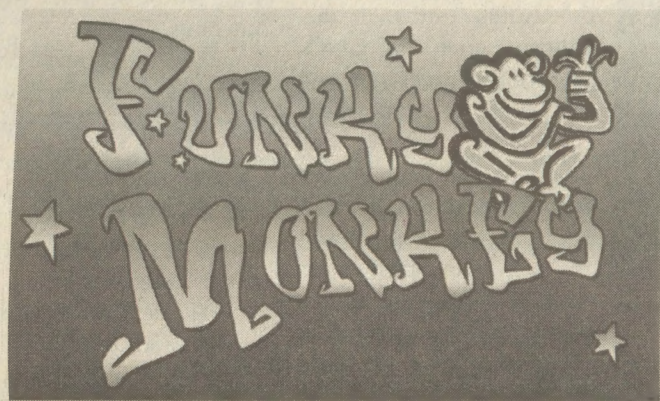
Curtis added 12 points and Calvin Kapels put up 11 points, eight rebounds and seven assists.

Saturday night the Mavericks survived an 11-point comeback from No. 14 Minnesota State to knock off the champs 68-64. UNO held a 66-55 lead with less than five minutes to play, but MSU scored nine straight. UNO stopped two MSU possessions that could have resulted in a tie or win in the final minute. Curtis rebounded the final miss and was fouled, hitting both free throws with one second on the clock to ensure the win.

Kapels and Quantel Murphy led UNO with 14 points apiece. Chris DeSpain added 13 points and Robinson added 10 points.

UNO was down by seven points in the first 10 minutes before Nieland sparked an 8-0 run after scoring four points. After a jumper by Murphy and a layup by Kapels UNO took a 33-32 lead into the locker room and never gave it back.

The Mavericks will travel to St. Cloud, Minn., to take on St. Cloud State in the first round of the Wells Fargo Finals Wednesday at 8 p.m.



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Women's basketball earns first round home court advantage

LIZ SELZER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It was a hot weekend for the UNO women's basketball team, completing a three-game winning streak and finishing fourth in the competitive North Central Conference.

The Mavericks also earned home court advantage in the first round of the Wells Fargo Finals post-season tournament. It will be the first time UNO has hosted the first round since 1987, when it hosted St. Cloud State in an NCAA II regional contest.

The Mavericks played Minnesota-Duluth Thursday night for the second time in five days, but this time beat them by more than free throws, 82-70. The Mavs then took on Minnesota State-Mankato Saturday, avenging last week's loss with a 94-81 win.

Five Mavericks were in double digits against UMD, and Ashley Freerksen recorded her first double-double of her



photo by Michelle Bishop
Toni Kinsey drives to the hoop during the Mav's game against Minnesota-Duluth on Thursday.

career with 14 points and 11 rebounds. The Mavs went on a 27-6 run in the second half to take a 77-59 lead with only three minutes and 17 seconds left to play.

Saturday, the stands were packed with 1,850 fans cheering on the Mavericks. JJ Smith loved the atmosphere, as she tied her career high 29-points and moved into the tenth spot for career scoring at UNO.

The Mavericks came out on fire going on a 15-2 run in the first minutes of the game. MSU put together some runs and battled back, but UNO took the half time lead 43-35.

The Mavericks improved their shooting percentage from 40.7 percent in the first half to an impressive 63 percent in the second half.

UNO led by as many as 25 points in the second half, but MSU cut the lead down to 12 before the Mavericks took the victory, 94-81.

The Mavericks take on South Dakota

Wednesday night in the Sapp Fieldhouse at 6 p.m.

Softball splits opening tournament

LIZ SELZER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Strong bats from Lauren McArthur and Leslie Svoboda helped the UNO softball team finish 2-2 in their season debut at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville's Cougar Classic.

In the first game Friday against Missouri Western State, the Mavericks came out with solid defense, putting the first three batters away with strong infield play. When the Mavs took the bats in their

hands for the first time of the season, it was their strongest batter, McArthur, who would put the first run on the board. The clean-up hitter started her season with an RBI triple bringing Svoboda home.

Coming into the sixth inning the game was tied 4-4. The Mavericks brought Cayte Billman to the pitchers' mound, and she saw three batters come up and three batters go down.

It was a sloppy bottom of the sixth as Missouri Western made two errors, which resulted in the game-winning run for the

See **SOFTBALL**: Page 11

Tennis picks up second consecutive shutout with win over Vikings

NATHAN LEETE

SPORTS EDITOR

conference winning streak to nine games, dating back to the 2004 season.

The UNO tennis team picked up its second consecutive shutout of the season Friday night against Augustana at Hanscom Park. The win stretches UNO's

The Mavericks improved to 4-2 on the year while dropping the Vikings to 1-5. The Mavericks have a week off before traveling to Nebraska-Kearney for a dual starting at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 5.

Singles Results

- 1) Katie Schmidt (UNO) defeated Tara Tesmer (AC) 3-6, 6-4, 10-5
- 2) Maggie Russell (UNO) defeated Mallory Larsen (AC), 6-0, 6-1
- 3) Rachel Faulk (UNO) defeated Katie Bohl (AC), 6-0, 6-0
- 4) Abby Wilson (UNO) defeated Megan Felder (AC), 6-2, 6-2
- 5) Kelsey Cochran (UNO) defeated Lindsey Agnitsch (AC), 6-4, 6-3
- 6) Katie Spahn (UNO) defeated Jessie Mootz (AC), 6-0, 6-0

Doubles Results

- 1) Schmidt-Wilson (UNO) defeated Larsen-Tesmer (AC), 8-1
- 2) Cochran-Pierson (UNO) defeated Bohl-Felder (AC), 8-4
- 3) Elizabeth Gershel- K. Spahn (UNO) defeated Agnitsch-Mootz (AC), 8-0

Track takes second at conference

LIZ SELZER

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO women's track team brought home a second place finish at the North Central Conference Indoor Championships, and Laverne Monger sprinted away with two titles.

South Dakota took first place with 306.25 points, while the Mavericks settled for second with 155 points. Augustana racked up 98 points stealing third place from Minnesota State, which came in fourth with 97.25 points.

Monger showed she deserved to be nationally ranked in the 60-meter and 200-meter dash, by taking home gold in both events. She clocked in at 7.64 seconds in the 60-meter dash and 24.80 seconds in the 200-meter. Molly Belling came in ten hundredths of a second

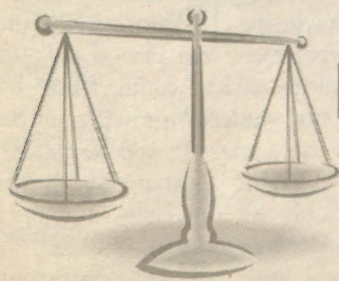
(7.74) behind Monger, in the 60-meter dash, taking home second place.

Tahnee Tuenge was the only other Maverick to take home a title. Tuenge took the 1000-meter run with a time of two minutes, 59.70 seconds. Teammate Sarah Zeisler came in second with a time of 3:02.13, and she also took third in the mile run. The 4x400 relay team of Monger, Karin Clarkson, Magda Orzylowski and Rebekah Hughes picked up a second place finish with a time of 3:56.59. Clarkson took second in the 400-meter run with a time of 56.60, and Orzylowski, also took second in the 500-meter run clocking in at 1:16.54.

The team has a week off to fix any technical difficulties before heading to the NCAA Division II Indoor Championships in Boston, March 9-11.

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Movie version of *Rent* now available for rent

REVIEW BY MICHAEL MCMANUS
ASSISTANT FEATURES/ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

The long-awaited film version of the musical *Rent* hit theaters on Nov. 23, 2005. But if the opening numbers show anything, it's that those who were excited to see the movie must have waited to rent it instead. The opening weekend of *Rent* brought in a mere \$10 million, and things only got worse. *Rent*, the film, has only grossed a little more than \$29 million, a minuscule amount considering that it cost \$40 million for production. It's even more minuscule when comparing it to the musical *Chicago*, which started the musical-to-movie craze and grossed nearly \$171 million.

That said, Sony Pictures is hoping to have a winner on their hands with the DVD version of *Rent*, which came out last week.

The film adaptation of Jonathan Larson's Tony Award-winning rock opera tells the story of a group of bohemians struggling to get by in modern day East Village in New York City. Most of their stories involve AIDS, love, loss and modern-day life struggles, including paying rent. What sets this musical apart from the others that ended up on the big screen is the fact that six of the original eight principal cast members

returned for the big screen adaptation, 10 years after the musical originally began.

I have to admit that I wasn't a huge fan of the movie version of *Rent*. I had heard so much about the musical before seeing the film, and didn't feel as if the movie delivered what I expected. The DVD version of *Rent* was actually much more enjoyable.

The DVD consists of the usual director and cast commentary tracks, but the most original aspect of the DVD focused on the writer of the musical, Jonathan Larson.

The DVD tells the story of Larson's formative years, his move to New York and the subsequent experiences and projects that led up to writing *Rent*. Did you know that he died on opening night of the musical?

There is also a section called "Another Day," which follows the creation process of the musical *Rent* from conception to the final dress rehearsal, and a section called



courtesy

"Without You" that follows the amazing success story of the musical, from off-Broadway to worldwide phenomenon. A two-disc special edition DVD is also on release, and holds over three hours of deleted scenes and extras.

The biggest criticism concerning the film version of *Rent* was that a few musical selections were cut from the original version. I'm sure many fans were hoping they would make it to the DVD, but, for some reason they were not included. I think it would have been a smart move on Sony's behalf to include this deleted material.

Overall, my second opinion of *Rent* is much more pleasing than my first. *Rent* seems to be one of those films that gets better every time you watch it. I began catching new storylines, meanings and symbolism that I totally missed sitting in the theater three months ago.

It doesn't matter if you're straight, gay, have AIDS or enjoy cross dressing, we all have a heart and I find it hard to believe that anyone can sit through this film without being touched. That is the beauty of *Rent*. It does an amazing job of showing that people who live alternative lifestyles are not any different than everyone may assume. We all cry, laugh, dream and love. *Rent* is truly a DVD worth buying, if not, worth renting.

Poker events: Buddies think they know when to hold `em

BY PATRICE M. JONES

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
(KRT)

CHICAGO - The bond between buddies Craig Rabin and Jason Beck is obvious, particularly

in the way they tend to finish the dangling end of each other's sentences.

The way Beck tells it, he called Rabin as soon as he got the idea in 2004 to start a business that would host free college poker tournaments

at which students would compete for scholarships. It didn't matter that the pair was separated by more than a thousand miles, with Beck in college in Miami and Rabin at Illinois State University in Normal. Rabin picks up the story: "I

was like, 'This is a great idea.' So I had this business class that was on small business ownership. We had to create a fake company. But I was thinking, why create a fake hot dog stand when we have got this great idea?"

about gambling," Beck said.

"But the students don't pay a cent to enter our tournaments, and everyone wins at least a small prize."

Beck and Rabin aim to ride the poker wave; there has been an enormous growth in the game's popularity in general and in college poker, in particular, during the past few years.

There are about 3 million young people, between ages 14 and 22, who gamble at cards on a weekly basis, according to a recent study by the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania. About half of the males attending college gamble at cards at least once a month, the research showed.

Long a popular pastime, now poker events on television have glamorized the game and those who play it.

Beck, who worked in the University of Miami's intramural department and played poker in college, said he couldn't help but notice students' growing interest in the game. He said he thought scholarship tournaments, hosted mainly by university intramural departments and funded by local and national sponsorships, would allow students to enjoy the

Since 8th grade, Beck and Rabin have talked about running a business together. Now, less than a year after graduating from college with business degrees, they are hosting free traveling Texas Hold 'Em poker tournaments at six universities. In April, they will hold an online national championship with a scholarship prize pool of up to \$20,000.

The budding entrepreneurs have succeeded in avoiding the corporate 9-to-5, but they are entering controversial territory in bringing a "legitimized" version of poker onto university campuses.

"With any poker event, there are going to be some reservations

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